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POPULATION TODAY

Vol. 18, No. 3 March 1990

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PRB *A publication of the Population Reference Bureau, Inc.*

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In population, as in every other field, there are popular stereotypes, or shibboleths, or popular impressions that ultimately don't withstand a whole lot of scrutiny. Two examples:

Statement: U.S. black fertility is considerably higher than white fertility.

Data: The two rates are close and getting closer. As of 1987, the total fertility rate (TFR) of black women is 2.3 children, while the white rate stands at 1.8. (For the nation as a whole, it's 1.9.) For women aged 25-29 and 30-34, white fertility is slightly higher than that for blacks.

Statement: The United States's population is rapidly aging.

Data: Aging—yes. Rapidly—no. The nation's median age, for example, has risen at only the most creeping of paces, from 30.0 years in 1980 to 32.1 in 1987. The proportion of elderly has likewise risen slightly, in 1980, those 65 years and over constituted 11.3 percent of the population; as of 1987, they constitute 12.2 percent.

Hardly a radical shift. And in the 1990s, it will be the relatively small Depression-era cohorts that hit the age-65 wall. The baby-boomer hordes are still in their middle years (26 to 43 years old). In 2010, when the boomers are just starting to reach retirement age, those 65 and over will still only be 13.9 percent, according to the Census Bureau's middle-series projections.

But *then* the figures will start to zoom. By 2030, the 65-and-over population could be 21.8 percent—one out of every five Americans.

—Art Haupt

SPEAKING GRAPHICALLY

City Lights

There are 281 metro areas scattered through the United States: 20 CMSAs (Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas), and 261 of the smaller MSAs (Metropolitan Statistical Areas). Altogether, these metro areas contain 76.9 percent of the nation's population as of 1987, and 16.3 percent of the land area.

Source: PRB, U.S. Census Bureau.

POPULATION TODAY

VOL. 18, NO. 3 **March 1990**

POPULATION TODAY, the newsmonthly of population and demography, is published 11 times a year (a combined issue in July/August) by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc., founded in 1929, a nonprofit organization engaged in the dissemination of objective population information. The views and opinions of POPULATION TODAY's contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of PRB.

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Back Issues: Back issues of POPULATION TODAY and its predecessor INTERCOM are available in limited quantities from PRB for $2.00 per copy.

Mailing: Printed in Washington, D.C. Mailed nonprofit postage rate in the United States; printed matter surface rate to Canada, Mexico, and to foreign subscribers.

Address Changes: Send current PRB address label and new address; please allow eight weeks for change.

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ISSN 0749-2448

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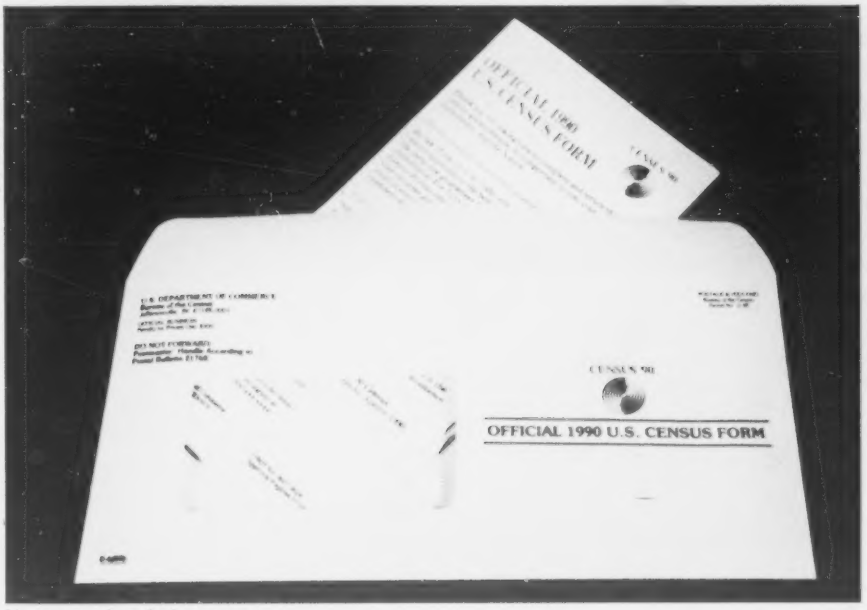
Census Looking Out for "Person 1"

One month to go.

By now the census forms are in the mail. On or about March 23, every household will receive one of two forms. Five out of six households get the "short" form, which has 14 basic population and housing questions on it. The sixth household will get the "long" form, which contains all the short-form questions, plus 45 more.

Why two types of forms? The Constitution stipulates that everyone be counted (not estimated from a statistical sample), which is the primary purpose of the short form. But the long form really serves as a gigantic sample survey of the U.S.



U.S. Bureau of the Census

You may already have won

The Long and Short of It

The short form is just three pages long, as follows:

- Each household member is to be listed on the outside of the form, starting with all-important "Person 1," the occupant in whose name the dwelling unit is held. Then follow:
- Seven population questions (1-7), asked about each person in the household, including their age, race and family relation (or nonrelation) to "Person 1." The short form also asks race (white, black, Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, and 10 categories of Asian and Pacific Islander), with spaces provided to write in Indian tribe and other race.

Included here as well are questions asking Spanish/Hispanic origin, with checkoffs on Mexican/Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Cuban. For the first time, a space is provided for writing in an "other" Spanish/Hispanic group, including other nationalities.

- Seven household questions (H1-H7) are asked as well, one concerning absentees from the household, and six describing characteristics of the dwelling unit, including type, size, rent or owned, and value.

That's it. Elapsed completion time, 14 minutes on average, says the Census Bureau. (The more people per household, the more time it will take, clearly.) No income or other sticky questions.

The seven population and housing questions listed above also appear on the long form, but finish them and you've just started. Turn the page and you will find two additional pages continuing the housing theme (questions H8-H26): plumbing and heating, real estate taxes, mortgage payment, etc. Not to mention condominium fee (new for 1990).

A bit of census-form trivia: The eight housing questions whose numbers are mysteriously double-underlined on the questionnaire are physical-plant type items (e.g., "Is this house on less than one acre?") that can be completed by enumerators even if the dwelling is unoccupied.

Next (and finally) come facing pages that ask 25 more questions (questions 8-33) about each person in the household, continuing the question series begun with 1 through 7. These questions ask each householder's education, ethnic origin, where he or she lived five years earlier, and (if a woman) how many babies she has ever had.

New and Gone

A number of items are new for 1990. On the short form you'll find stepson/stepdaughter as a category of relative, enabling such "blended" families to be tallied. "Unmarried partner" is included as a separate item for the first time.

Also new on the long form are a series of yes-or-no disability questions that ask whether any person has a "physical, mental, or other health condition that has lasted for 6 or more months" that limits the amount of work they can do, prevents them from working at a job, or causes them difficulty in going out or taking care of personal needs.

Counting the Homeless

Most Americans will receive the standard long and short forms. But some will see a different form: the Individual Census Report (ICR). This special form will be distributed to those people living in group quarters—a large category (in 1980, 5.8 million people were counted in this category) that includes people living in institutions and other special places and an undetermined number who are homeless.

The ICR comes in long and short versions, which resemble the regular long and short forms but without those forms' family-relation and housing questions. The data derived from the ICR will give a detailed demographic picture (and to the extent possible, the population) of people living in special situations—everything from rooming in a

Continued on page 8

Romania Ends Compulsory Childbearing

The American public was shocked, following the fall of Nicolae Ceausescu's regime in Romania, by revelations of the terrible human toll resulting from Romania's supression of access to contraception and safe abortion.

The general outlines of the story had for some years been a concern of professionals following demographic developments in Eastern Europe. Now that the fallen regime's abuses have come to public attention, further details of the policy are becoming more widely known.

For 23 years, Romania obsessively pursued the world's most rigidly enforced pronatalist policy. One of the first actions of the fledgling transitional government was to revoke, on Dec. 27, 1989, the Ceausescu laws and decrees that banned the importation and sale of contraceptives, strictly prohibited most abortions, required monthly gynecological examinations of all working women 20 to 30 years old, and imposed a tax on childlessness.

Institution of these laws and decrees began after Ceausescu came to power in 1965. At that time the birth rate had declined to 15.6 per 1,000 population (from 25.6 in 1955). Suddenly, without prior warning, in October 1966 the availability of abortion on request was restricted to women who were over 45 years old, who were already supporting 4 or more children, whose life was endangered by pregnancy, or who met criteria for very narrowly defined medical conditions.

The importation of contraceptives was prohibited, divorce became very difficult to obtain, and strict punishment was imposed on illegal abortion. As one result, the birth rate rose to 27.4 births per 1,000 population in 1967 but then gradually declined again to a new low of 14.3 in 1983. At the 1984 Party Congress, Ceausescu announced a goal of achieving a birth rate of 20 per 1,000 population, which, if attained, would increase the population to 30 million by 2000. As lax policy enforcement gave way to renewed drives against illegal abortion, the birth rate rose to 15.5 in 1984 and 15.8 in 1985.

Meanwhile, the maternal mortality rate increased from 86 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1966 to 140 in 1981 and nearly 150 in 1984, when 86 percent of maternal deaths were attributed to abortion (according to official data reported to the World Health Organization). In 1986, Ceausescu proclaimed that "the fetus is the socialist property of the whole society. Giving birth is a patriotic duty, determining the fate of our country. Those who refuse to have children are deserters, escaping the law of natural continuity."[1]

Access to legal abortion was further restricted. Having 4 children was no longer sufficient grounds for abortion on request. The requirement was raised to 5 children, each of whom had to be under age 18. This meant that, for some women, even having 5 living children might not be enough to obtain a legal termination of an unwanted pregnancy.

District demographic committees were organized to supervise pregnant women. At the same time, recommendations for pregnancy termination based on previously acceptable medical-legal criteria for fetal abnormalities or on genetic counseling were increasingly ignored in the processing of abortion applications. A special unit was established within the Romanian State Security Police (Securitate) to investigate allegations of illegal abortion. Securitate representatives were posted in every maternity ward and obstetrical/gynecological clinic or service. Physicians were confronted with prison terms of up to 12 years and loss of the right to practice medicine. Self-induced abortion became punishable by imprisonment from six months to two years or by payment of a fine. Reports appeared in the press of criminal proceedings, trials, and sentences imposed.

Contraceptives were available only with a physician's prescription, in cases where there was well-defined evidence that a woman's health would be greatly endangered by a pregnancy. Importation and sale of pills, IUDs, condoms, and other contraceptives were prohibited. Black market condoms were said to cost one day's wage. Permission for sterilization could be granted by a special medical commission only in cases where the woman would also meet the very stringent criteria for legal abortion.

Employed women up to age 45 were asked to undergo monthly gynecological examinations in their work places. Those who refused to

Continued on page 9

Wide World Photos

Romanians in Bucharest cheer a new government.

Adjustment Protested

The Secretary of Commerce's guidelines for adjusting the 1990 Census were heavily lambasted Jan. 30 by witnesses at a House subcommittee hearing.

Chairman Thomas Sawyer (D-Ohio) convened the hearing to review the Proposed Guidelines for Considering Statistical Adjustment of the 1990 Census, issued for public comment in December 1989. (See *PT*, September 1989 and January 1990.) There he heard the testimony from three other members of Congress, six statisticians, four lawyers, a representative of the General Accounting Office, and an Under Secretary of Commerce. With few exceptions, those testifying were highly critical of the guidelines.

Witnesses asserted that the guidelines were constructed in such a way as to make justifying an adjustment impossible.

Attorneys representing the city and state of New York, plaintiffs in the 1988 lawsuit that required the Commerce Secretary to publish guidelines, were vitriolic. They contended that the guidelines, which just "put up roadblocks" to adjustment, were not in compliance with the earlier courtroom settlement.

Statisticians were scarcely less restrained. The American Statistical Association's Barbara Bailar, former Associate Director of the Census Bureau, said that the guidelines cast doubts on the Department's sincerity, and Carnegie-Mellon University's Professor Jay Kadane called the guidelines "biased and unfair."

Two witnesses did not support the idea of adjustment. The University of Chicago's Dean William Kruskal said that the error structure of the Post-Enumeration Survey, upon which an adjustment would be based, was not sufficiently well understood at this point, nor was the combination of its error structure with that of the census itself. Under Secretary Michael Darby of the Department of Commerce said that the whole discussion of adjustment is not timely. "I believe the question of whether to adjust is for 1991."

The final version of the guidelines will be published Mar. 10, 1990.

SURVEY REPORT

Egypt

The findings of the newly published Egypt Demographic and Health Survey, conducted in October 1988, show some positive demographic trends for this North African county.

The 54.8 million people of Egypt inhabit less than 5 percent of the country's land, being concentrated on either side of the Nile. According to the 1986 Census, the density of Egypt as a whole is 128 people per square mile; the density of the inhabited areas is, however, more than 3,300 people per square mile. Some 44 percent of the population resides in urban areas while 56 percent live in rural areas.

Because of the economic importance of children, fertility levels are about average for North Africa. The survey found a lower total fertility rate (TFR), 4.38 total children per woman for 1986-1988, than TFR estimates had heretofore shown. Whether this lower figure will be confirmed by future assessments remains to be seen.

The correlations between fertility and residence are not surprising. In 1986-1988, the TFR in rural Egypt was 5.35, almost 2 children higher than the TFR found in in urban Egypt, 3.48. Likewise, fertility and education correlations are to be expected. In 1986-1988, the TFR for women with no education was 5.38, while those women who had completed secondary education had a TFR of 3.15, more than 2 children fewer.

Egyptian women are marrying later today than they did in the past. Of the ever-married women who were married between 1960 and 1964, 40.3 percent were wed before age 16, whereas of the marriages that took place between 1980 and 1984, only 18.2 percent of ever-married women were married before age 16. This trend towards later marriage may help to explain the lower total fertility rates.

The survey findings indicate that 38 percent of currently married women are practicing family planning—nearly all via modern contraceptive methods, with the pill and the IUD accounting for most usage (15.3 percent and 15.6 percent, respectively). This represents a substantial and steady increase during the 1980s.

In 1980 the Egyptian Fertility Survey had reported that 24 percent of ever-married women were using contraception, and the 1984 Contraceptive Prevalence Survey had shown a figure of 30.3 percent.

Breastfeeding, because of its contraceptive effect and benefits for infant health, is an important health measure for a country. In Egypt, although few babies are breastfed for more than two years, the duration of breastfeeding is fairly long. Over half (50.1 percent) of the babies who were 18-19 months old at the time of the survey were still being breastfed. Of those just a few months older (24-25 months old), only 12.2 percent were still being breastfed.

Residence and education play a large role in determining whether or not a mother will breastfeed. Not surprisingly, women who reside in urban areas breastfeed for shorter periods of time than women in rural areas. (15.5 and 18.6 percent, respectively). A plausible explanation is that mothers who live in urban areas are more likely to work for cash than mothers who live in rural areas. Women who work for cash breastfeed 2.1 months less than women who are not paid in cash (15.9 versus 18.0).

—*K.F.*

DEMOGRAPHER'S PAGE

USSR Ethnic Composition: Preliminary 1989 Census Results

by Ward Kingkade

In January and February 1989 the Soviet State Committee on Statistics (Goskomstat SSSR) conducted a national population census, which was the fourth census of the USSR taken since World War II. Following well-established tradition, some preliminary tallies of the population by geographic units were published in the Soviet media in April 1989. According to official accounts, further data were scheduled for publication around the end of 1989.

Although Goskomstat in Moscow has yet to publish further 1989 Census results, the Sept. 19 issue of the Estonian-language newspaper *Rahva Haal* carried some tables of summary data on the ethnic composition of the population in the 1989 Census. Of particular interest are the figures for the titular nationalities of the USSR's 15 Union Republics, summarized in Table 1.

As the figures indicate, the population of the USSR grew by more than 23 million persons from 1979 to 1989, increasing by an overall factor of 9 percent over the intercensal period. Although Russians, thanks to their numerical predominance in the Soviet population, experienced the greatest gain in absolute numbers among Soviet nationalities, their rate of increase was below the national average. As a result, the Russian share of the total Soviet population declined from 52.4 percent in 1979 to 50.8 percent in 1989.

If present growth rates were to continue unchanged, the Russians would cease to be a majority of the Soviet population by 1994. Under any reasonable scenario, the dissipation of the Russian majority seems inevitable. This would make the USSR the only major power in which the dominant nationality is not a majority.

The variations in growth rates among the ethnic groups are in close agreement with what is known about their fertility levels. The most rapid growth during the intercensal period among the 15 nationalities listed in the Estonian source occurred in the four Central Asian nationalities (Kirgiz, Tadzhiks, Turkmen, and Uzbeks) together with Kazakhs and Azeris. Period fertility indices for these ethnic groups imply completed family sizes of 4 or more children, well above the 2-child norm prevailing among most European nationalities. Among the European ethnic groups, Moldavians are distinguished by fertility at a level sufficient to ensure sustained growth in the long run, reflected by their above-average 1979-1989 growth rate. The slower growth of the highly educated Georgian and Armenian nationalities relative to their Caucasian neighbors, the Azeris, is paralleled by the corresponding differences in fertility.

The breakdown of the ethnic populations by language affiliation is of considerable interest, although it should be noted that political trends may influence the figures.[1] The three language affiliation categories distinguished in the Estonian source consist

Table 1. Distribution of the Soviet Population by Nationality, 1979 and 1989 Censuses

Nationality	Population 1979	Population 1989	Percent of Total 1979	Percent of Total 1989	Absolute Growth	Relative Growth (percent)
Total	262,084,654	285,688,985	100.00	100.00	23,604,331	109.01
Russians	137,397,089	145,071,550	52.42	50.78	7,674,461	105.59
Ukrainians	42,347,387	44,135,989	16.16	15.45	1,788,602	104.22
Belorussians	9,642,715	10,030,441	3.61	3.51	567,726	106.00
Uzbeks	12,455,978	16,686,240	4.75	5.84	4,230,262	133.96
Kazakhs	6,556,442	8,137,878	2.50	2.85	1,581,436	124.12
Georgians	3,570,504	3,983,116	1.36	1.39	412,612	111.56
Azeris	5,477,330	6,791,106	2.09	2.38	1,313,776	123.09
Lithuanians	2,850,905	3,088,298	1.09	1.08	237,393	108.33
Moldavians	2,968,224	3,355,240	1.13	1.17	387,016	113.04
Latvians	1,439,037	1,459,156	0.55	0.51	20,119	101.40
Kirgiz	1,906,271	2,530,998	0.73	0.89	624,727	132.77
Tadzhiks	2,897,697	4,216,693	1.11	1.48	1,318,996	145.52
Armenians	4,151,241	4,627,227	1.58	1.62	475,986	111.47
Turkmen	2,027,913	2,718,297	0.77	0.95	690,384	134.04
Estonians	1,019,851	1,027,255	0.39	0.36	7,404	100.73

Source. Rahva Haal, Estonia, Sept. 19, 1989, No. 216 (14,207).

Ward Kingkade is a Statistician (Demography) in the Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table 2. Language Affiliation of Soviet Nationalities 1979 and 1989 Censuses

Nationality	Mother Tongue Native 1979	Mother Tongue Native 1989	Russian Second 1979	Russian Second 1989	Other Second 1979	Other Second 1989
Total	93.1	92.7	23.4	24.2	4.7	5.3
Russians	99.9	99.8	0.1	0.1	3.5	4.0
Ukrainians	82.8	81.1	49.8	56.2	7.1	8.5
Belorussians	74.2	70.9	57.0	54.7	11.7	11.7
Uzbeks	98.5	98.3	49.3	23.8	2.8	3.7
Kazakhs	97.5	97.0	52.3	60.4	2.1	2.9
Georgians	98.3	98.2	26.7	33.1	0.9	1.0
Azeris	97.9	97.6	29.5	34.4	2.0	2.2
Lithuanians	97.9	97.7	52.1	37.9	1.5	1.6
Moldavians	93.2	91.6	47.4	53.8	3.9	4.4
Latvians	95.0	94.6	56.7	64.4	2.0	2.5
Kirgiz	97.9	97.8	29.4	35.2	2.2	4.6
Tadzhiks	97.8	97.7	29.6	27.7	10.6	12.2
Armenians	90.7	91.6	38.6	47.1	5.7	5.0
Turkmen	98.7	98.5	25.4	27.8	1.6	2.0
Estonians	95.3	95.5	24.2	33.8	1.9	2.0

Source. Rahva Haal, Estonia, Sept. 19, 1989, No. 216 (14,207).

of: 1) those who consider the language of their ethnic group to be their mother tongue, 2) those who know Russian as a second language, and 3) those who know the language of another people of the Soviet Union as a second language. The typology is widely employed to gauge the dissemination of knowledge of Russian, under the general assumption that the members of a nationality who do not consider that nationality's language to be their mother tongue consider their mother tongue to be Russian.

This assumption reconciles the otherwise surprisingly low levels of knowledge of Russian as a second language among Belorussians and Ukrainians. It can hardly be the case that Kazahks are as familiar with Russian as members of these two Slavic nationalities are; rather, the presence of substantial contingents of russified Belorussians and Ukrainians claiming Russian as their mother tongue makes for lower proportions reporting Russian as a second language. As Table 2 illustrates, there has been little change in mother tongue affiliation between the last two censuses. However, in many instances there has been appreciable growth in knowledge of Russian as a second language; this is also the case with regard to knowledge of another Soviet language.

Despite these increases, there remain relatively few ethnic groups whose members in the majority report knowledge of Russian (7 of the 15 groups listed). Owing largely to the numerical weight of the Slavic nationalities, it can be estimated that as of 1989, 64 percent of the non-Russian population of the USSR knew Russian either as a mother tongue or as a second language, as compared to 62 percent in 1979.

Further results of the 1989 Soviet census are scheduled for release early in 1990. Goskomstat also intends to publish the detailed results of the 1979 census over the same year. These welcome contributions will be awaited with high interest.

Note

[1]For example, the high proportion of Uzbeks claiming knowledge of Russian as a second language in 1979 (49 percent, as compared to 15 percent in 1970) has been received with skepticism by most Western observers. The 1989 figure of 24 percent appears consistent with a plausible trend of more gradual increase.

21st Century Arrives Soon

With a kickoff conference Mar. 29, PRB's "America in the 21st Century" project moves into a new phase of disseminating its research.

The year-long project is designed to help public officials and policymakers better understand the present and future of U.S. demographic trends. In addition to the conference, the project is completing a series of publications on facets of the challenge. The "21st Century" booklets, which average 28 pages, are:

- **A Demographic Overview.** A brief summary of seven important demographic trends and how they relate to U.S. public policy issues.
- **Human Resource Development.** Focus on education, work force needs, and retirement issues.
- **Social and Economic Support Systems.** Needs of the poor and other at-risk population groups, such as children, disabled, and elderly (available April 1990).
- **Infrastructure Needs.** Prospects and problems related to the built environment, particularly transportation and housing needs.
- **Environmental Concerns.** Issues of land use, air and water quality, and waste disposal.
- **Governance and Politics.** Looking at voters, political realignments, and managing the public sector.
- **A Global Perspective.** Prospects for U.S. competitiveness and changing global markets.

"America in the 21st Century" is a project of PRB and the Population Resource Center (PRC) which were awarded a grant from the Ford Foundation to conduct this study.

– A.H.

Copies of the booklets from "America in the 21st Century" can be ordered, either individually or as a complete set, from PRB, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB; or by calling toll free 1-800-877-9881. Visa or MasterCard accepted. Prices are: $30.00 for the complete set of seven booklets, or individually for $5.00 per single copy; 2-10 copies, $4.50 each; 11-50 copies, $4.00 each; 51 or more, $3.80 each. Orders for $50.00 or less must be prepaid. For U.S. orders, include $1.00 or 3 percent (whichever is greater) for postage and handling.

Census

Continued from page 3

college dorm to being homeless. (Another category of what might be called the quasi-homeless—a family "doubling up" with another family in a dwelling unit—will be picked up by the general census.)

Shelter and Street Night will take place Tuesday, Mar. 20, and Wednesday, Mar. 21. From 6 p.m. to midnight on Mar. 20, enumerators will interview people in pre-identified homeless shelters, shelters for abused women, and very-low-cost hotels and motels, including hotels used by local governments to house the homeless.

From 2 a.m. to 4 a.m., enumerators will scout streets frequented by the homeless, as well as train and bus stations. At the end of the night, from 4 a.m. to 6:30 a.m., enumerators will station themselves outside of abandoned and boarded-up buildings and interview people who will in many cases be emerging for the day.

People living on the street will be given the short form only; those living in shelters and other abodes will receive the short or long forms on a sample basis.

Shelter and Street Night will be conducted with restraint. Census workers will not enter the abandoned buildings on their watch. Nor will they awaken people sleeping on the streets; instead the sleepers' age, sex, and race will be estimated. Respondents will never be asked if they are homeless; rather, their responses will be tallied according to their location, be it a shelter or street where they were found. Nonetheless, for statistical purposes, the figures from Shelter and Street Night, while necessarily incomplete and conservative, should help give data users a clearer picture of the size and characteristics of the U.S. homeless population.

Transient Night will occur Saturday, Mar. 31, for people living in YMCAs, YWCAs, and campgrounds. Like Shelter and Street Night, the Transient Night operation will be one in which census enumerators distribute and collect the forms on the spot. People in these transient situations who have a fixed address somewhere else will be assigned to that fixed address for statistical purposes.

Starting the week after Census Day, enumeration of the people living in the most common types of group quarters will begin. This includes many sorts of group living situations, including dormitories, nursing homes, clinical institutions, maternity homes, prisons, and alcohol/drug detox centers. Again, many of these people will probably have another fixed address in addition, and if so, the census will assign their data to that location.

—*A.H.*

Education and Population

By any standard, U.S. elementary and secondary education is a major enterprise, involving nearly one out of every four Americans either as a student (45.4 million in 1987-1988), teacher (2.6 million), or additional staff (2.2 million). Education's cost ($309 billion in 1988) is comparable to that of national defense.

What are the coming effects of population on this major national mission? In PRB's just-published *Population Bulletin*, "American Education: The Challenge of Change," authors Jeanne E. Griffith, Mary J. Frase, and John H. Ralph trace the interaction between population and the schools from the halcyon 1950s into the 21st century.

The proportion of minority students in schools has grown, due to increased immigration and declining birth rates among white non-Hispanics. Persistent urban poverty has concentrated poor, minority students in the schools of central cities, while many urban white middle-class families have moved their children to suburban schools.

Fewer new workers will enter the job market in the next two decades. In 1980, persons 18 to 24 comprised 22 percent of the labor force. By 2000, because of low fertility and an aging population, this percentage will fall to about 15 percent. And in coming decades, immigrants and native-born minorities are projected to comprise about 40 percent of the country's entry-level workers, and women, 42 percent.

Business will no longer be able to follow the practice of picking up the best students and ignoring the rest. They will be hiring large proportions of the upcoming graduating classes of students, at a time when educated, adaptable workers will be more important than ever.

In a new decade of concern over the competitiveness of the national economy and the ability of the educational institutions to provide the necessary workers, the connection between population and education is certain to be watched closely.

—*A.H.*

Copies of the 44-page "American Education: The Challenge of Change," by Jeanne E. Griffith, Mary J. Frase, and John H. Ralph (Vol. 44, No. 4, December 1989), can be ordered from PRB, Circulation Dept., P.O. Box 96152, Washington, D.C. 20090-6152, with checks payable to PRB; or by calling toll free 1-800-877-9881. Visa or MasterCard accepted. Prices are: $7.00 per single copy; 2-10 copies, $6.50 each; 11-50 copies, $5.50 each; 51 or more, $4.00 each. Orders for $50.00 or less must be prepaid. For U.S. orders, include $1.00 or 3 percent (whichever is greater) for postage and handling.

APLIC Meeting

APLIC-International holds its annual meeting May 1-3, 1990, at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada. The theme is "Women in Development: Status, Issues and Information."

The meeting precedes and overlaps by one day the annual meeting of the Population Association of America (PAA) at the same venue. The confab will be the 23rd annual meeting for APLIC, whose full name is the Association for Population/Family Planning Libraries and Information Centers-International.

For further information, contact: Carol L. Knopf, Librarian, Brown University Demography Library, Population Studies and Training Center, P.O. Box 1916, Providence, R.I. 02912, phone 401-863-2668.

Symposium on Scarcity Set

"Population and Scarcity: The Forgotten Dimensions" is a full-day symposium to be held in Washington, D.C., April 20, 1990, during Earthweek.

Sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution, the symposium will examine the interaction between population and environmental problems.

It will take place at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, and will feature as speakers Paul Ehrlich, Carl Haub, Herman Daly, Anne Ehrlich, John Holdren, Dan Luten, and Garrett Hardin. Registration is $35.00, which should be remitted by April 1. For further information and registration materials, contact: Louise Salmon, AIBS Meetings Manager, 730 11th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001; phone 202-628-1500.

Romania

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appear, or could not provide a medical certificate of exemption, were denied their rights to dental and medical care, pensions, and social security, and were also declared ineligible to spend their vacations at the resort maintained by their work place. Whether or not factory physicians received their full monthly salaries depended on plant employees achieving a state-stipulated monthly birth quota.

District demographic committees supervised the mandatory quarterly pregnancy tests for all women 20 to 30 years old. Unmarried persons over age 25 were assessed a special tax of 10 percent of monthly salary. If after two years a marriage was childless and there was no medically certified reason for infertility, each partner had to pay extra taxes.

The demographic effect of the strictly enforced policies is not known. As of January 1990, birth data for the years 1986-1988 had not been published by the Central Statistical Office or reported to the United Nations. Total fertility rates have not been availa-

Continued on next page

SOFTWARE

Immigration Tracking belongs to a new category of specialized business software, programs designed to help personnel managers comply with the provisions of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA).

Under IRCA, U.S. employers became responsible for checking the legal status of newly hired workers. Hirees must now show some proof of citizenship or legal-alien status and fill out the I-9 form on which they attest to their legal status. The employer in effect countersigns this form and keeps it on file, available for government inspection.

With *Immigration Tracking*, an I-9 form can be filled out on-screen and then sent to a printer. The program also contains a personnel database that tracks each worker and his or her work status over time, automatically flagging those whose status requires new action (e.g., those whose work authorizations are about to expire). It can signal when obsolete I-9 forms can safely be tossed.

Immigration Tracking requires an IBM PC or compatible with at least 512K RAM and two disk drives (hard disk recommended) and a dot matrix or laser printer. Price is $285. Contact Specialized Software Solutions, 5065 Lebanon Rd., Old Hickory, Tenn. 37138, phone 615-754-4334.

—*A.H.*

POPULATION UPDATE

Estimated United States Population:

As of November 1, 1989	249,736,000
As of November 1, 1988	247,249,000

The above estimates include armed forces overseas and are from U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 1051.

Estimated World Population:

As of March 1990	5,295,500,000
Annual growth	93,000,000

Extrapolated from the mid-1989 population on PRB's *1989 World Population Data Sheet*.

Latest Provisional Statistics for the U.S.: September 1989

	12 months ending with September					
	Number		Rate			
Item	1989	1988	1989	1988	1987	1986
Live births	3,941,000	3,890,000	15.9	15.9	15.6	15.6
Deaths	2,143,000	2,171,000	8.7	8.9	8.7	8.7
Natural increase	1,798,000	1,719,000	7.2	7.0	6.9	6.9
Marriages	2,388,000	2,374,000	9.6	9.7	10.0	9.9
Divorces	1,157,000	1,171,000	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.8
Infant deaths	38,800	38,700	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.5
Population base (in millions)	...	...	247.6	245.0	242.7	240.4

Note. Rates are given per 1,000 population, except for infant deaths, which are given per 1,000 live births.

Source. Monthly Vital Statistics Report (Vol. 38, No. 9) from the National Center for Health Statistics.

Romania

Continued from previous page

ble since 1983. However, a 30-day delay was imposed on birth registration in an effort to avoid acknowledging infant deaths occurring in the first month of life, as a statistical ruse to reduce the infant mortality rate — 25.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births were reported in 1985.

Western media recounted that young women were increasingly abandoning unwanted babies in overcrowded orphanages. Until recently, couples from Belgium, France, Israel, and Italy were permitted to adopt babies in exchange for hard Western currency.[2] When asked about the lack of official statistics on fertility, a Romanian colleague at the 1989 IPPF Regional Meeting in Varna quietly commented, "No numbers; no problems."

A January 1990 broadcast from the Municipal Hospital in Bucharest noted that condoms and other contraceptives are again imported and abortions are being performed at a cost of about $3 per procedure (compared to $50 and up for previously illegal abortions).[3]

Currently, about 2500 abortions per week are performed in 12 Bucharest hospitals.[4] Women are still coming to hospitals for treatment of complications of self-induced abortions; they were not aware that abortion is now legal. Plans to implement a national family planning program are being developed in cooperation with WHO/Europe.

—Henry P. David
Transnational Family
Research Institute
Bethesda, Md.

References

1. Ceausescu, N. Cited in *Der Spiegel*, Oct. 20, 1986.
2. *Economist*. Jan. 16, 1988.
3. Amos, D. National Public Radio Morning Edition Broadcast from Bucharest, Jan. 4, 1990.
4. Inspector General, Bucharest Health Directorate, as told to Lyn Thomas, IPPF/Europe.

Note: Cited demographic data, based on official government statistics, and other information have been reported in issues of *Abortion Research Notes*, published by Transnational Family Research Institute.

TAKE A NUMBER

America's Indians: As the curtain rises on the 1990 Census, 1980 Census data on the American Indian population by tribe and detailed characteristic have now been released by the Census Bureau. From the question on race, the report gives a 1980 national total of 1,478,523 population. The 10 most populous tribes were: Cherokee, 232,080; Navajo, 158,633; Sioux, 78,608; Chippewa, 73,602; Choctaw, 50,220; Pueblo, 42,552; Iroquois, 38,218; Apache, 35,861; Lumbee, 28,631; Creek, 28,278; other tribes, 711,840 . . . counts of American Indians vary, depending on the question. The above figures derive from the census question asking race; in contrast, the census question asking ancestry tallied 6.8 million people who claimed some Indian lineage.

Here and There . . . Florida remains the home of the U.S.'s fastest growing metropolitan areas; Naples, Ocala, Fort Pierce, and Fort Myers-Cape Coral led the nation with population increase of over 50 percent from 1980 to 1988. Casper, Wyo., and Steubenville-Weirton, Ohio-W. Va. brought up the rear by losing about 10 percent of their populations . . . according to the U.S. Census Bureau's new *World Population Profile: 1989*, over one-third of Korea's and Argentina's populations live in the capital city and one out of 10 world inhabitants lives in a city of 2 million or more . . . although it will be close, it does not now look as if births in the U.S. will hit the 4 million mark as some have speculated . . . Divorce rates may continue high (4.7 divorces per 1,000 population, as of 1989), twice the rate of three or four decades ago (the post-World War II low was 2.1, in 1958). But one divorce statistic seems to remain relatively constant: median duration of marriage at the time of divorce. From 1970, when it was 6.7 years, until 1986, when it was 6.9 years, this statistic has changed little over time. Divorce *frequency* may go up, but the length of marriage is an independent variable . . .

—C.H.

ADDENDA

ZIPPY
"SIT CALM, IT'S OKAY..."
BILL GRIFFITH
I FINALLY FIGURED OUT WHY "ROSEANNE" IS SUCH A MEGA-HIT! IT'S TH' FIRST DEMOGRAPHICALLY CREATED SITCOM!! IT... SKEWS BIMODALLY!!
CAN YOU SAY THAT IN PRIME TIME?
"SKEWS BIMODALLY" IS A PROGRAMMER'S TERM! IT MEANS "APPEALING TO TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS AT THE SAME TIME"!
THIS ROSEANNE THING APPEARS TO BE ABOUT WORKING CLASS TYPES, BUT THEY HAVE HIP ATTITUDES! SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!
I ONCE HAD DINNER WITH JOHN GOODMAN! WE'RE LIKE THIS..
TH' SHOW GOES OVER BIG WITH TH' "VIDIOTS" & TH' "HIPOISIE"!! IT'S A LIE, BUT THAT'S GOOD TV!!
NO ONE SKEWS WITH DONNA REED!!
ZIPPY
IF SAY "HIP-WA-ZEE"....

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CURRENT READINGS

PRB welcomes materials on population topics for possible inclusion in Current Readings. Publishers may address review copies to Book Review Editor, POPULATION TODAY, Population Reference Bureau, 777 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS, edited by Erica Royston and Sue Armstrong. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization, 1989. 233 pages. ISBN 92-4-156128-9.

The special health needs of infants and women of reproductive age are often discussed together. Yet although infant mortality is a subject of concern, maternal mortality until recently was not a topic that most demographers and public health specialists concentrated on.

In part, this is because an estimated 500,000 women die from maternal causes each year (1 percent of annual deaths) compared to the deaths of nearly 11 million infants under the age of 1 (21 percent of annual deaths). And in part, the lack of attention was a reflection of women's low status and the attitude that death is a natural (and therefore acceptable) risk of motherhood.

However, with the 1976-1985 UN Decade of Women and several subsequent international conferences, e.g., the 1987 International Safe Motherhood Conference, more attention is being focused on maternal mortality. Although the number of maternal deaths is not as tragically high as the number of infant deaths, the gap between the developed and developing world is much larger: For every maternal death in a developed country there are 82 deaths in the developing world, much higher than the ratio of 1:5.6 for infant mortality. Such a gap seems to indicate that there are public health measures that could be taken to save mothers' lives.

Preventing Maternal Deaths is an up-to-date discussion of 1) maternal mortality statistics and their weaknesses, 2) the causes of maternal mortality, and 3) the current thinking on how to prevent maternal mortality. Written by a team of experts from WHO and other prestigious research organizations and universities, the book is highly readable and informative. It is not a technical manual and yet has enough detail to provide more than just an introduction to the subject.

We cannot expect to see a clever acronym to cover a seven-point maternal survival strategy. As the book points out, many of the life-threatening problems associated with childbearing need relatively sophisticated medical care—blood transfusions or surgery. However, countries can 1) train traditional nurse midwives in improved hygienic practices, 2) develop screening programs to help identify potentially serious problems early in pregnancies, and 3) institute referral systems so that women with problems get the help they need.

—Nancy Yinger

POPULATION AND RESOURCES IN A CHANGING WORLD: Current Readings, by Kingsley Davis et al. Stanford, Calif.: Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies, 1989. 532 pages. $10.00. US. ISBN 89-60189.

Few authors seem to address the relationship between population and resources directly. This anomaly, observe the editors of *Population and Resources in a Changing World*, can be explained in part by the traditional separation of disciplines, a division that this compendium endeavors to bridge.

Population and Resources is a collection of previously published articles arranged in four sections: "Theory and Fact," "Human Demography Relevant to Resources," "Resources Relevant to Population," and "U.N. Summary of 1988." One example of the insights gained when disciplines are combined is Nathan Keyfitz's article exploring the population-environment link in a reversal of the traditional carrying capacity paradigm, posing the proposition that resources determine population rather than the other way around.

The idea that population is resource-determined, what Keyfitz calls a "population-capacity approach," might be valuable for conducting long-range projections. Keyfitz cites Nigeria as an example whose projections are currently done on the basis of extrapolation and that those projections might be adjusted downward under his proposed "population-capacity approach."

Many of the other chapters do not necessarily link population and resources as their primary objective; rather, they might deal with one component of resources such as the solid waste crisis, energy, or water resource issues in a descriptive fashion with demographic issues treated peripherally.

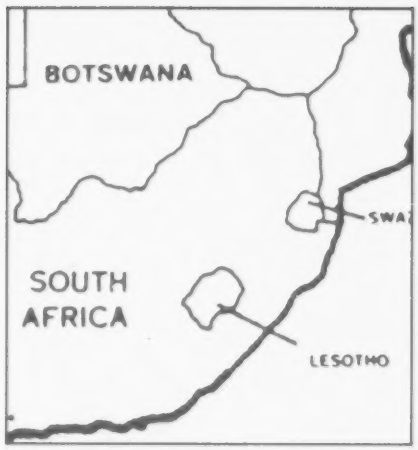
Understanding the conditions that will ensure benign demographic-environmental balance is essential for global survival. Because such understanding does not yet fully exist, there is an urgent need to advance our knowledge. According to Nafis Sadik, "One of the priorities for the future will be action-oriented research into the linkages, to guide national and international development policies."

—Alexander von Cube

LESOTHO

Population (mid-1989): 1.7 million
Land area: 11,720 sq. miles
Births per 1,000 pop.: 41
Deaths per 1,000 pop.: 13
Rate of Natural Increase: 2.8 percent
Total Fertility Rate: 5.8 children per woman
Infant Mortality Rate: 106 infant deaths per 1,000 births
Life Expectancy: 55 years
GNP per capita (1987 est.): $360
Capital: Maseru

by Gwenda Brophy



The Kingdom of Lesotho, encircled by the Republic of South Africa, is a small, mountainous country of 1.7 million people. It has a narrow resource base and less than 13 percent of the land area is suitable for agriculture. The majority of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture. High-quality mohair and wool are important exports, gathered from the goats and sheep that graze the mountainous terrain.

Lesotho is also an exporter of labor: approximately 40 percent of the male labor force is employed in the mines of South Africa—and the country is heavily dependent on remittances from this source.

The national government has emphasized the importance of encouraging the growth of the industrial sector to provide much-needed employment opportunities and to diversify the productive base of the economy. To date, however, there has been only moderate success.

The population is estimated to be growing at 2.8 percent a year, which is projected to result in an annual increase in the labor force of between 20,000 to 25,000 through the 1990s. Unemployment is estimated at 22 percent of the labor force.

A new campaign is presently under way to slow the growth of the population by formulating a national population policy and intensifying the dissemination of family planning information and contraceptives. Strengthening urban and rural health services (by upgrading clinics and other facilities) and improving infrastructure are elements of a wide-based effort to bring improved health, nutrition, and family planning services to poor people, especially women and children. Some rural residents still lack access to basic health care, and up to 30 percent of children under 5 are suffering from malnutrition.

There is increasing concern about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and an STD control program is planned under which prostitutes and other high-risk groups will be treated and monitored. At present, 1 percent of the population is believed to be HIV-positive.

Contraceptive prevalence was only 5 percent in 1977 when the last major survey was carried out. The influence of the Catholic Church is strong in Lesotho, but in recent years it has taken a broader stand on family planning. Male opposition to family planning is particularly strong, especially among migrant workers but also among many educated men, according to a recent Women and Health seminar. The Lesotho Planned Parenthood Association (LPPA), which was established in 1967, sends out field educators specializing in male motivation who address men at road-building sites, offices, and mine sites, but many men remain opposed to family planning.

Spousal separation resulting from very high male migration is believed to have played a stong role in dampening fertility in the past. Formerly, absences of up to two years were not uncommon, and fertility levels were relatively moderate for Sub-Saharan Africa even though contraceptive use was low. Absences are now much shorter.

In terms of the future, imminent major changes to the economic fabric are currently under way. A massive development, the Highlands Water Project — under which Lesotho is to sell water to South Africa — will be a major source of revenue to the mid-1990s. How Lesotho spends the revenue, and the effects on the demographic fabric, will be of significant interest.

Gwenda Brophy is currently a consultant at Southern African Demographic Research, Swaziland.